

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an edge detection means for detecting an edge in
image data;

5 a thinning judgment means for judging whether or
not a thinning process in said image data should be
performed; and

an edge density conversion means for receiving a
discrimination signal from said thinning judgment means
10 to perform density conversion of a pixel which is
judged to be subject to the thinning process.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said edge density conversion means refers to a lookup
table.

15 3. An apparatus according to claim 1, further
comprising an edge detection means effected by a
filtering process.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said edge detection means uses a first-order
20 differential filter for a filtering process.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein,
after said first-order differential filter performs
edge detection in four directions of a main scanning
direction, an auxiliary scanning direction, and two
25 oblique directions, whether or not the detection result
is made effective can be set separately in relation to
each of said four directions.

